

60th Legislature

SENATE BILL NO. 188

INTRODUCED BY B. TASH

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT RATIFYING THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, SHEEP EXPERIMENT STATION-MONTANA COMPACT."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. United States of America, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Sheep Experiment Station-Montana Compact ratified. The Compact entered into by the State of Montana and the United States of America, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Sheep Experiment Station, and filed with the secretary of state of the State of Montana under the provisions of 85-2-702, MCA, on [date of filing] is ratified. The compact is as follows:

WATER RIGHTS COMPACT

STATE OF MONTANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, SHEEP EXPERIMENT STATION

This Compact is entered into by the State of Montana ("State") and the United States of America ("United States") to settle for all time any and all claims existing on the Effective Date of this Compact to reserved water rights in the State for the United States Sheep Experiment Station ("U.S. Sheep Experiment Station") administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the State, in 1979, pursuant to Title 85, chapter 2, of the Montana Code Annotated, commenced a general adjudication of the rights to the use of water within the State, including all federal reserved and appropriative water rights;

WHEREAS, 85-2-703, MCA, provides that the State may negotiate compacts concerning the equitable division and apportionment of water between the State and its people and the federal government with claims to non-Indian reserved water rights within the State;

WHEREAS, the United States wishes to quantify and have decreed the amount of water necessary to

1 fulfill the purposes of the reservation of lands for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in the State;

2 WHEREAS, the United States Attorney General, or a duly designated official of the United States
3 Department of Justice, has authority to execute this Compact on behalf of the United States pursuant to the
4 authority to settle litigation contained in 28 U.S.C. 516 and 517;

5 WHEREAS, the Secretary of Agriculture, or a duly designated official of the United States Department
6 of Agriculture, has authority to execute this Compact on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture
7 pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2201 note, Section 1(a).

8 NOW, THEREFORE, the State and the United States agree as follows:

9 ARTICLE I

10 DEFINITIONS

11 For purposes of this Compact only, the following definitions apply:

12 (1) "Abstracts" means the copy of the document entitled "Abstracts of U.S. Sheep Experiment Station
13 Water Rights" referenced in this Compact as Appendix 3.

14 (2) "Consumptive" means a use of water that removes water from the source of supply such that the
15 quality or quantity is reduced or the timing of return delayed, making it unusable or unavailable for use by others,
16 and includes evaporative loss from impoundments or natural lakes.

17 (3) "Department" means the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation or its successor.

18 (4) "Effective Date of this Compact" means the date of the ratification of the Compact by the Montana
19 legislature, written approval by the United States Department of Agriculture, or written approval by the United
20 States Department of Justice, whichever is latest.

21 (5) "Groundwater" means water that is beneath the ground surface.

22 (6) "Parties" means the State and the United States.

23 (7) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, state agency, political
24 subdivision, or any other entity, but does not include the United States.

25 (8) "State" means the State of Montana and all officers, agents, departments, and political subdivisions
26 thereof. Unless otherwise indicated, for purposes of notification or consent, "State" means the Director of the
27 Department or the Director's designee.

28 (9) "United States" means the federal government and all officers, agencies, departments, and political
29 subdivisions thereof. Unless otherwise indicated, for purposes of notification or consent other than service in
30 litigation, "United States" means the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee.

1 (10) "U.S. Sheep Experiment Station" means those lands within Montana that were withdrawn and
2 reserved by Executive Order No. 3767, dated December 19, 1922, as depicted on the map attached as Appendix
3 1 to this Compact. For purposes of this Compact, it does not include portions of the U.S. Sheep Experiment
4 Station located in the State of Idaho that the United States owns and the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
5 Agricultural Research Service, administers.

6 ARTICLE II

7 WATER RIGHT

8 The Parties agree that the following water rights are in settlement of all of the United States' federal
9 reserved water rights for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.

10 A. Purpose of Reservation for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.

11 The U.S. Sheep Experiment Station was created for agricultural experiment purposes, and the land in Montana
12 was set aside for experimental sheep grazing by Executive Order No. 3767, dated December 19, 1922.

13 B. Quantification.

14 Subject to the terms of Article III, the United States has federal reserved water rights from sources located
15 on the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station as described below.

16 1. Current Stockwater Use.

17 The United States has federal reserved rights on U.S. Sheep Experiment Station lands for Consumptive
18 use for stockwatering purposes at the 53 locations identified in the table attached as Appendix 2 for the volume
19 of water identified. Abstracts for each of these federal reserved water rights are attached as Appendix 3 to this
20 Compact. In the event of a discrepancy between the summary of U.S. Sheep Experiment Station water rights
21 in Appendix 2 and the Abstracts contained in Appendix 3, the Abstracts in Appendix 3 control. The period of use
22 of the United States' water rights for Consumptive use set forth in Article II, section B.1., shall be from May 1 to
23 October 31 of each year.

24 2. Future Uses.

25 In addition to the current stockwater uses identified in Article II, section B.1., the United States has a
26 federal reserved water right to develop uses of surface water or Groundwater consistent with Article II, section
27 B.5., to fulfill the purposes of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station up to a total additional volume of 15 acre feet
28 per year for uses within the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.

29 3. Emergency Fire Suppression.

30 The use of water for emergency fire suppression benefits the public and is necessary for the purposes

1 of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. The United States has a federal reserved water right to divert or withdraw
2 water for fire suppression on U.S. Sheep Experiment Station lands as needed and without a definition of the
3 specific elements of a recordable water right. Use of water for fire suppression shall not be considered an
4 exercise of the United States' water rights for current or future uses described in Article II, section B.1. and 2.

5 **4. Priority Date.**

6 The priority date for all federal reserved water rights for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station is
7 December 19, 1922.

8 **5. Purposes.**

9 The United States' reserved water rights for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station shall be used for
10 purposes as described in Article II, section A. The types of use may include but are not limited to: stockwater,
11 domestic, irrigation, storage, dust abatement, reclamation, and research.

12 **ARTICLE III**
13 **IMPLEMENTATION**

14 **A. Abstracts.**

15 Abstracts for all the United States' federal reserved water rights for current stockwater uses are set forth
16 in Appendix 3. The Parties prepared the Abstracts to comply with the requirements for a final decree as set forth
17 in 85-2-234, MCA, and in an effort to assist the state courts in the process of entering decrees accurately and
18 comprehensively reflecting the rights described in this Compact. The rights specified in the Abstracts are subject
19 to the terms of this Compact.

20 **B. Enforcement and Administration of Water Right.**

21 1. The United States, the State, or a holder of a water right recognized under state law may petition a
22 state or federal court of competent jurisdiction for relief when a controversy arises between the United States'
23 reserved water rights described by this Compact and a holder of a water right recognized under state law.
24 Resolution of the controversy shall be governed by the terms of this Compact where applicable or, to the extent
25 not applicable, by appropriate state or federal law.

26 2. For purposes of the administration of federal reserved water rights provided for in Article II, the United
27 States agrees that a water commissioner, or other official appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, may
28 enter the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station to collect data, inspect structures for the diversion and measurement
29 of water, and distribute the federal reserved water rights in Article II. The terms of entry or distribution may be
30 limited, as appropriate, by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Nothing herein waives the right of the

1 United States, with respect to a specific action or anticipated action by a water commissioner or other official
2 under this subsection, to seek terms of entry or distribution consistent with purposes of the U.S. Sheep
3 Experiment Station, including but not limited to terms of entry that respect the integrity of ongoing or proposed
4 research, or to seek terms of entry or distribution consistent with federal law if in conflict with state law.

5 3. The Department may enter the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station lands upon which a federal reserved
6 water right is described in Article II for the purposes of data collection on U.S. Sheep Experiment Station water
7 diversions or water uses. The Department shall notify the United States by certified mail or in person at least 72
8 hours prior to entry.

9 **C. Use of Reserved Water Rights.**

10 The reserved rights of the United States described in this agreement are federal water rights. Nonuse
11 of all or a part of the federal water rights described in this Compact shall not constitute abandonment or forfeiture
12 of those rights. The federal water rights described in this Compact need not be applied to a use deemed
13 beneficial under state law, but shall be restricted to uses necessary to fulfill the purposes of the U.S. Sheep
14 Experiment Station.

15 **D. Change in Use.**

16 1. The United States may make a change in the use of its reserved water rights described in Article II,
17 sections B.1. and 2., provided that:

18 (a) the use must fulfill the purposes of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station described in Article II, section
19 A;

20 (b) the total use shall not exceed the amount described in this Compact; and

21 (c) the change shall not adversely affect a senior water right recognized under state law.

22 2. The United States' federal reserved water right to divert or withdraw water for emergency fire
23 suppression as described in Article II, section B.3., shall not be changed to any other use.

24 **E. Reporting Requirements.**

25 The United States shall provide a report to the Department on an annual basis, or on a periodic basis
26 agreed to by the Parties, containing specific information on:

27 1. the development of new uses as described in Article II, section B.2.;

28 2. changes in use as described in Article III, section D; and

29 3. the source of supply, the dates of use, and the estimated amount of water used for emergency fire
30 suppression as described in Article II, section B.3.

ARTICLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. No Effect on Tribal Rights or Other Federal Reserved Water Rights.

1. The relationship between the water rights of the United States described herein and any rights to water of an Indian Tribe, or of any federally derived water right of an individual, or of the United States on behalf of such tribe or individual shall be determined by the rule of priority.

2. Nothing in this Compact may be construed or interpreted in any manner to establish the nature, extent, or manner of administration of the rights to water of any other federal agency or federal lands in Montana other than those of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station.

3. Nothing in this Compact may be construed or interpreted in any manner to establish the nature, extent, or manner of administration of the rights to water of any Indian Tribes and tribal members.

4. Nothing in this Compact is otherwise intended to conflict with or abrogate a right or claim of any Indian Tribe regarding boundaries or property interests.

B. General Disclaimers.

Nothing in this Compact may be construed or interpreted:

1. as a precedent for the litigation of reserved water rights or the interpretation or administration of future compacts between the United States and the State or of the United States and any other state;

2. as a waiver by the United States on behalf of the Agricultural Research Service of its right under state law to raise objections in state court to individual water rights claimed pursuant to the state Water Use Act, Title 85, of the Montana Code Annotated, in the basins affected by this Compact or any right to raise objections in an appropriate forum to individual water rights subject to a provisional permit under the state Water Use Act, Title 85, of the Montana Code Annotated, in the basins affected by this Compact;

3. as a waiver by the United States of its right to seek relief from a conflicting water use;

4. to establish a precedent for other agreements between the State and the United States or an Indian tribe;

5. to determine the relative rights, inter sese, of Persons using water under the authority of state law or to limit the rights of the Parties or a Person to litigate an issue not resolved by this Compact;

6. to create or deny substantive rights through headings or captions used in this Compact;

7. to expand or restrict any waiver of sovereign immunity existing pursuant to federal law as of the Effective Date of this Compact;

1 8. to limit the authority of the United States to manage its lands in accordance with the Constitution,
2 statutes, and regulations of the United States;

3 9. to affect in any manner the entitlement to or quantification of other federal water rights;

4 10. to be binding on the United States with regard to the water rights of the United States for any area
5 other than the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station;

6 11. to affect the water rights of any other federal agency that is not a successor in interest to the water
7 rights subject to this Compact;

8 12. to prevent the United States from seeking a permit to appropriate water under state law for use within
9 or outside the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station boundaries.

10 **C. Reservation of Rights.**

11 The Parties expressly reserve all rights not granted, described, or relinquished in this Compact.

12 **D. Severability.**

13 The provisions of this Compact are not severable.

14 **E. Multiple Originals.**

15 This Compact is executed in quintuplicate. Each of the five (5) Compacts bearing original signatures shall
16 be deemed an original.

17 **F. Notice.**

18 Unless otherwise specifically provided for in this Compact, service of notice required hereunder, except
19 service in litigation, shall be:

20 1. State: Upon the Director of the Department and such other officials as the Director may designate
21 in writing.

22 2. United States: Upon the Secretary of Agriculture, the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station Director, and
23 such other officials as the Secretary may designate in writing.

24 **ARTICLE V**

25 **FINALITY OF COMPACT**

26 **A. Binding Effect.**

27 1. The Effective Date of this Compact is the date of the ratification of this Compact by the Montana
28 legislature, written approval by the United States Department of Agriculture, or written approval by the United
29 States Department of Justice, whichever occurs later. Once effective, all of the provisions of this Compact shall
30 be binding on the Parties.

1 2. Following the Effective Date of this Compact, this Compact shall not be modified without the consent
2 of both Parties. Either party may seek enforcement of this Compact in a court of competent jurisdiction.

3 3. On approval of this Compact by a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction and entry of a decree
4 by such court confirming the rights described herein, this Compact and such rights are binding on all Persons
5 bound by the final order of the court.

6 4. If an objection to this Compact is sustained pursuant to 85-2-702(3) and 85-2-703, MCA, this Compact
7 shall be voidable by action of and without prejudice to either party.

8 **B. Filing Compact with State Court.**

9 Subject to the following stipulations and within one hundred eighty (180) days of the Effective Date of this
10 Compact, the Parties shall submit this Compact to an appropriate state court or courts having jurisdiction over
11 this matter in an action commenced pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 666 for approval in accordance with state law and for
12 the incorporation of the water rights described in this Compact into a decree or decrees entered therein. The
13 Parties understand and agree that the submission of this Compact to a state court or courts, as provided for in
14 this Compact, is solely to comply with the provisions of 85-2-702(3), MCA, and does not expand the jurisdiction
15 of the state court or expand in any manner the waiver of sovereign immunity of the United States in the McCarran
16 Amendment, 43 U.S.C. 666, or other provision of federal law.

17 **C. Dismissal of Filed Claims.**

18 At the time the state courts approve the water rights described in this Compact and enter a decree or
19 decrees confirming the rights described herein, such courts shall dismiss, with prejudice, all water right claims
20 specified in Appendix 4 of this Compact for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. If this Compact is not approved
21 or a water right described herein is not confirmed, these claims shall not be dismissed.

22 **D. Settlement of Claims.**

23 The Parties intend that the water rights described in this Compact are in full and final settlement of the
24 federal reserved water right claims for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station land in Montana described in this
25 Compact and administered by the Agricultural Research Service on the Effective Date of this Compact. On the
26 Effective Date of this Compact, the United States hereby and in full settlement of any and all claims to federal
27 reserved water rights by the United States, including all claims that the Agricultural Research Service filed or
28 could have filed as part of the ongoing statewide adjudication process, relinquishes forever all claims to federal
29 reserved water rights within the State for the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station. The State agrees to recognize the
30 water rights described and quantified herein and shall, except as expressly provided for herein, treat them in the

1 same manner as a water right under Montana state law. Nothing in this Compact precludes the Agricultural
2 Research Service from filing for future water use permits under Montana state law.

3 **E. Defense of Compact.**

4 The Parties agree to defend the provisions and purposes of this Compact from all challenges and attacks.

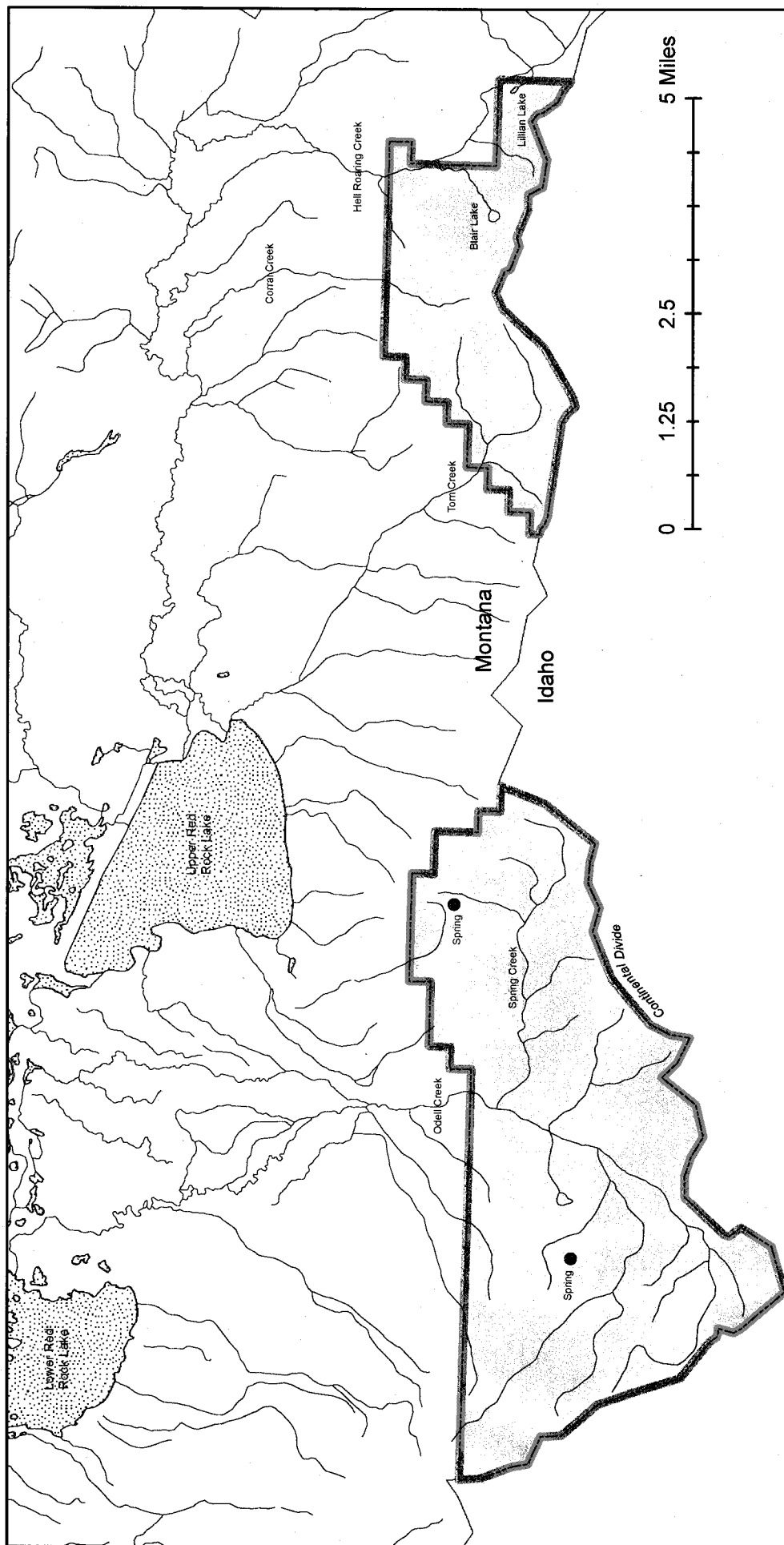
5 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the representatives of the State of Montana and the United States have signed
6 this Compact on the ____ day of _____, 2007.

7

8 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
9 integral part of Title 85, chapter 20, and the provisions of Title 85, chapter 20, apply to [section 1].

10

- END -



US Sheep Experiment Station - Montana Compact

Appendix 1

APPENDIX 2

SHEEP STATION WATER RIGHTS

Water Right	Point of Diversion Quarter Section, Section, Township/Range			Source Name	Volume (acre feet)
41A 1	S2SW	26	14S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek	0.11
41A 2	SESESW NENENW	35 2	14S1E 15S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek UT Hellroaring Creek	0.13
41A 3	SE E2SENE	35 35	14S1E 14S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek UT Hellroaring Creek	0.30
41A 4	NW SENE	1 2	15S1E 15S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek UT Hellroaring Creek	0.17
41A 5	S2NENE	1	15S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek	0.07
41A 6	NESENE	1	15S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek	0.07
41A 7	SESE S2	32 33	14S1E 14S1E	UT Tom Creek UT Tom Creek	0.61
41A 8	SWSWSE W2 W2NWNW	32 5 5	14S1E 15S1E 15S1E	UT Tom Creek UT Tom Creek UT Tom Creek	0.07
41A 9	E2	4	15S1W	UT Spring Creek	0.48
41A 10	W2 S2SE NWNWNE	4 33 4	15S1W 14S1W 15S1W	UT Spring Creek UT Spring Creek UT Spring Creek	0.39
41A 11	SW E2	33 32	14S1W 14S1W	UT Red Rock Creek UT Red Rock Creek	0.20
41A 12	SESWNW	4	15S1W	Spring- UT Spring Creek	0.28
41A 13	SWNENW	5	15S1W	Spring- UT Spring Creek	0.20
41A 14	S2 E2NE	5 8	15S1W 15S1W	UT Spring Creek UT Spring Creek	0.26
41A 15	NWNW E2SE NENENE	8 6 7	15S1W 15S1W 15S1W	UT Spring Creek UT Spring Creek UT Spring Creek	0.09
41A 16	NENENE N2 NWSW SESE NENESE	12 7 8 1 7	15S2W 15S1W 15S1W 15S2W 15S1W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.59
41A 17	W2NE	7 18	15S1W 15S1W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.54

Water Right	Point of Diversion Quarter Section, Section, Township/Range			Source Name	Volume (acre feet)
41A 18	SW	4 3 10 11 14 12 1 6	15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S1W	Odell Creek Odell Creek Odell Creek Odell Creek Odell Creek Odell Creek Odell Creek Odell Creek	0.76
41A 19	NENE N2NW S2 NW S2 NE	22 23 14 13 12 14	15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.61
41A 20	SESE S2SW S2SW	9 10 15 14	15S2W 15S2W 15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.07
41A 21	NE W2	15 14	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.07
41A 22	NW N2N2S2	14 14	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.09
41A 23	S2 N2 NENESE	10 9 9	15S2W 15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.07
41A 24	E2NENE W2NWNW	11 12	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.28
41A 25	S2SW NWNE	2 11	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.07
41A 26	NESWSW	1	15S2W	Spring- UT Odell Creek	0.13
41A 27	SESW	1	15S2W	UT Odell Creek	0.07
41A 28	NESENE NW	2 1	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.13
41A 29	N2SENE N2	3 2	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.11
41A 30	N2NE N2N2	4 3	15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek UT Odell Creek	0.09
41A 31	SESE NENE NENE	26 35 1	14S1E 14S1E 15S1E	Hellroaring Creek Hellroaring Creek Hellroaring Creek	0.13

Water Right	Point of Diversion Quarter Section, Section, Township/Range			Source Name	Volume (acre feet)
41A 32	SW NWNW NENE S2 S2 S2 NW	3 10 9 4 5 6 6	15S1W 15S1W 15S1W 15S1W 15S1W 15S1W 15S1W	Spring Creek Spring Creek Spring Creek Spring Creek Spring Creek Spring Creek Spring Creek	1.06
41A 33	SWNWNW NE SWSE	3 4 5 32	15S1E 15S1E 15S1E 14S1E	Tom Creek Tom Creek Tom Creek Tom Creek	0.48
41A 34	W2 S2S2	34 27	14S1E 14S1E	Corral Creek Corral Creek	0.39
41A 35	NE SESE SW	35 35 35	14S1E 14S1E 14S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek UT Hellroaring Creek UT Hellroaring Creek	0.12
41A 36	N2	35	14S1E	UT Hellroaring Creek	0.16
41A 37	NWSW SENW NENW	1 1 1	15S2W 15S2W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek	0.06
41A 38	SENE	6	15S1W	Spring - UT Spring Creek	0.16
41A 39	SENESE	33	14S1W	Spring - UT Red Rock Creek	0.28
41A 40	SESENE	4	15S1W	Spring - UT Spring Creek	0.22
41A 41	NWNW	11	15S2W	Spring - UT Odell Creek	0.09
41A 42	NWNE	11	15S2W	Spring - UT Odell Creek	0.06
41A 43	NWSE	1	15S2W	Spring - UT Odell Creek	0.12
41A 44	SWSW	27	14S1E	Spring- UT Red Rock Creek	0.16
41A 45	SESW	34	14S1E	Spring - Tom's Camp	0.09
41A 46	NESW	4	15S1W	Spring - UT Spring Creek	0.12
41A 47	N2	4	15S2W	UT Odell Creek	0.12
41A 48	S2	7	15S1W	UT Odell Creek	0.16
41A 49	NWNW N2	18 13	15S1W 15S2W	UT Odell Creek	0.22

Water Right	Point of Diversion Quarter Section, Section, Township/Range			Source Name	Volume (acre feet)
41A 50	SWSW	7	15S1W	UT Odell Creek	0.29
41A 51	NWSE	12	15S2W	UT Odell Creek	0.12
41A 52	NESE SWSW	5 4	15S1W 15S1W	UT Spring Creek	0.06